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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 94LIMA11661, AYACUCHO EMERGES FROM ITS SENDERO PAST

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#94LIMA11661**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
94LIMA11661	1994-12-19 14:14	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Lima

Appears in these articles:

[elcomercio.pe](#)

R 191414Z DEC 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1454
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 011661

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [KJUS](#) [PE](#)
SUBJECT: AYACUCHO EMERGES FROM ITS SENDERO PAST

REF: A) LIMA 9514; B) 93 LIMA 8504
...

id: 702
date: 12/19/1994 14:14
refid: 94LIMA11661
origin: Embassy Lima
classification: CONFIDENTIAL
destination: 93LIMA8504|94LIMA9514

header:

R 191414Z DEC 94
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1454
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 011661

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [KJUS](#) [PE](#)
SUBJECT: AYACUCHO EMERGES FROM ITS SENDERO PAST

REF: A) LIMA 9514; B) 93 LIMA 8504

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ADAMS, ACCOMPANIED BY AID OFFICERS AND POLOFF TRAVELED TO AYACUCHO FOR THE OPENING OF AN AID-FUNDED DETAINEE REGISTRY CENTER. US-TEAM ALSO VISITED AN ORPHANAGE AND AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, LOCAL RESIDENTS COMMENTED ON THE IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION IN AYACUCHO, WHICH WAS FORMERLY A HOTBED OF MILITARY/SENDERO CONFRONTATION. A KEY CONCERN OF LOCAL OFFICIALS APPEARS TO BE LETTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD KNOW ABOUT THE IMPROVED SITUATION, AND THUS IMPROVING TOURISM AND REGAINING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ADAMS, ACCOMPANIED BY AID DEPUTY COUNTRY DIRECTOR, AID ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE OFFICER, AND POLOFF TRAVELED NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1 TO AYACUCHO, A SMALL RUSTIC TOWN IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL ANDES (POPULATION OF 35,000, WITH A TOTAL REGIONAL POPULATION OF 140,000). AYACUCHO HAS A HEAVY INDIAN INFLUENCE. QUECHUA IS SPOKEN OR UNDERSTOOD BY ROUGHLY HALF THE POPULATION AND DISTINCTIVE NATIVE DRESS IS MUCH IN EVIDENCE. THE TOWN STILL IS HEAVILY COLONIAL IN ARCHITECTURE, WITH MANY BUILDINGS DATING FROM THE 18TH CENTURY. NO POLITICAL POSTERS OR SLOGANS OF ANY KIND WERE EVIDENT, EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL SPRAY PAINT GRAFFITI WITH THE NAME OF A LOCAL APRA POLITICIAN. THERE WAS NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT AYACUCHO HAD ONCE BEEN A DANGEROUS PLACE, OR THAT ITS VICINITY HAD BEEN THE SCENE OF FREQUENT SENDERO ATTACKS AND GOVERNMENT CLASHES. DESPITE THE SENSE IN AYACUCHO THAT ONE IS IN A REMOTE LOCATION, ACCESS TO LIMA IS EASY SINCE ITS AIRPORT IS SERVED BY PERU'S FOUR DOMESTIC AIR CARRIERS.

DETAINEE REGISTRY

¶3. (U) THE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST STOPS IN AYACUCHO WERE TO INAUGURATE THE AID-FUNDED DETAINEE REGISTRY COMPUTERS AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND THE LOCAL PUBLIC MINISTRY OFFICE. ATTORNEY GENERAL BLANCA NELIDA COLAN PARTICIPATED IN THE CEREMONY AT THE PUBLIC MINISTRY AND HOSTED A RECEPTION AFTERWARDS. DETAINEE REGISTRY CENTERS ENABLE CITIZENS TO LOCATE INDIVIDUALS DETAINED ON TERRORISM AND TREASON CHARGES BY POLICE OR MILITARY (IN EMERGENCY ZONES) AUTHORITIES ALL

OVER THE COUNTRY. BY NEXT SEPTEMBER, 13 SUCH CENTERS SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL THROUGHOUT PERU. AYACUCHO IS THE THIRD SUCH CENTER OPENED SINCE LAST FEBRUARY. (LIMA AND TARAPOTO WERE THE FIRST TWO, HUANUCO SHOULD BE OPENED IN JANUARY.)

ORPHANS

¶4. (U) US-TEAM THEN VISITED THE USAID-SUPPORTED ANDRES VIVANCO ORPHANAGE RUN BY SANTA ANA NUNS FOR CHILDREN UP TO AGE 18, INCLUDING NEWBORNS. FOUR NUNS ASSISTED BY LAY WORKERS TAKE CARE OF APPROXIMATELY 150 CHILDREN, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM LOST THEIR PARENTS DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS OF SENDERO-MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE AREA. AN ADDITIONAL 180 CHILDREN ATTEND DAY-TIME PROGRAMS AT THE FACILITY. (EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY LOCAL SALESIAN FATHERS TO ORGANIZE AN ORPHANAGE FOR OLDER CHILDREN.) EARLIER THIS YEAR, UNDER A CONGRESSIONAL EARMARK FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN AND ORPHANS, AID PROVIDED USD 200,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND FOR REPAIRS TO THE ORPHANAGE'S DECREPIT WATER SYSTEM.

¶5. (U) WHILE IN AYACUCHO, AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENTED WITH A LETTER FROM THE AYACUCHO ASSOCIATION OF RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM (AFAVIT) SEEKING ASSISTANCE. THIS ORGANIZATION TAKES CARE OF A FURTHER 100 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF THREE AND FIFTEEN. THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT TOTALLY DESTITUTE, UNLIKE THOSE TAKEN CARE OF AT ANDRES VIVANCO, BUT LIVE IN DIRE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES WITH RELATIVES OR A SURVIVING PARENT. THIS ORGANIZATION IS HEADED BY A UNIVERSITY STUDENT WHOSE PARENTS, WHO WERE TEACHERS, WERE KILLED BY SENDERO LUMINOSO IN ¶1989. HE EXPLAINED TO POLOFF THAT SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS EXIST IN LIMA AND HUANTA (IN NORTHERN AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT).

NEW UNIVERSITY RECTOR

¶6. (U) AMBASSADOR, JOINED BY AID DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND POLOFF, MET WITH EDUARDO GONZALEZ, THE NEW RECTOR OF SAN CRISTOBAL DE HUAMANGA UNIVERSITY IN AYACUCHO, WHO HAD ASSUMED HIS POSITION ONLY FIFTEEN DAYS BEFORE. GONZALEZ REPLACED PEDRO VILLENA, WHO WAS NAMED MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN OCTOBER (REF A).

¶7. (U) THE RECTOR EXPLAINED THAT SAN CRISTOBAL DE HUAMANGA WAS THE SECOND OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN PERU, HAVING BEEN FOUNDED IN 1677. IT CURRENTLY HAS TEN THOUSAND STUDENTS AND EMPLOYS 400 PROFESSORS, WHO TEACH IN TEN DIFFERENT FACULTIES. HE CONTRASTED THE CURRENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT WITH THE PERIOD OF VIOLENCE DURING THE EIGHTIES, WHEN STUDENT ENROLLMENT APPROXIMATED ONLY 3,500. SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS COME FROM RURAL AREAS SURROUNDING AYACUCHO. THE EDUCATION FACULTY HAS THE LARGEST ENROLLMENT.

¶8. (U) GONZALEZ MENTIONED PAST PROFESSOR EXCHANGES BETWEEN SAN CRISTOBAL DE HUAMANGA AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. ALL SUCH EXCHANGES ENDED DUE TO THE VIOLENCE THAT BEGAN IN THE EARLY 1980'S. THE RECTOR IS SENDING THE EMBASSY A LETTER WITH PROPOSALS FOR RESURRECTING SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS WITH U.S. UNIVERSITIES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS.

¶9. (U) THE RECTOR ADDED THAT AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST WILLIAM ISBELL, WHO HAD DIRECTED EXCAVATIONS AT THE NEARBY PRE-INCA WARI EMPIRE RUINS, WOULD RETURN TO AYACUCHO NEXT MONTH AFTER A FOUR YEAR ABSENCE TO CHECK ON THE SECURITY SITUATION AND LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING UP TO FIFTEEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM THE U.S. TO WORK ON THE SITE.

¶10. (U) AS FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE RECTOR EXPLAINED THAT THE AYACUCHO ECONOMY RELIES PRIMARILY ON TEXTILES FOR EXPORT. HE ADDED THAT EASTER WEEK IS A BIG TOURIST EVENT IN AYACUCHO AND ATTRACTED APPROXIMATELY SIX THOUSAND TOURISTS LAST YEAR, MOST OF WHOM CAME FROM WITHIN PERU. LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE NOW HOPING FOR FIFTEEN THOUSAND EASTER WEEK VISITORS NEXT APRIL. TOURISM DURING THE REST OF YEAR IS STILL LIMITED, BUT WORD IS GETTING OUT THAT THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED, AND SMALL GROUPS OF FOREIGN TOURISTS HAVE VISITED AYACUCHO DURING THE PAST YEAR.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

¶11. (C) FOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING WITH THE RECTOR. THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT FEDERATION EXPRESSED CYNICISM REGARDING PERU'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, AND EXPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT ANY OF THEM BECAUSE NONE OF THEM APPEARED TO BE SINCERELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IN AYACUCHO. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MAJOR CONCERN OF STUDENTS IN AYACUCHO WAS THE LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES AFTER GRADUATION. CURRENTLY, THE TWO MAIN SOURCES OF JOBS IN AYACUCHO WERE IN THE ARTISAN TRADE OR IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR AS TEACHERS OR LAWYERS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, HE PAUSED BEFORE SIMPLY STATING THAT HE VIEWED IT AS "AN ADVANCED COUNTRY."

SHINING PATH'S SHADOW

¶12. (C) SEVERAL AYACUCHO RESIDENTS NOTED TO POLOFF THAT SENDERO WAS NO LONGER ACTIVE THERE. HOWEVER, A MILITARY OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT THERE MIGHT STILL BE SENDERO SUPPORTERS IN AYACUCHO, BUT THEY ARE NOT OUT IN THE OPEN AND HAVE NOT BEEN ENGAGING IN VIOLENT ACTS. SENDERO FOUNDER PROFESSOR ABIMAELE GUZMAN IS STILL REMEMBERED IN AYACUCHO. RECTOR ENRIQUE GONZALEZ, A FORMER STUDENT OF GUZMAN'S, RECALLED THAT THE SENDERO LEADER WAS NOT A TALKATIVE TYPE, WHICH HE JOKINGLY REFERRED TO AS THE TYPE TO BE AFRAID OF. THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY TUNA (TROUBADOUR-TYPE SINGING GROUP) INDICATED TO POLOFF THAT HE, TOO, STUDIED UNDER GUZMAN, WHO HE REMEMBERED AS A VERY GOOD PROFESSOR. HE ADDED THAT GUZMAN WAS A BIG SUPPORTER OF THE TUNA GROUP, AND ESPECIALLY ENJOYED IT WHEN THE GROUP PERFORMED THE THEME FROM "ZORBA THE GREEK," WHICH GUZMAN DANCED TO ON A VIDEO CAPTURED BY SECURITY FORCES IN 1991.

¶13. (C) A FORMER MAYOR SAID THAT FORMER SENDERO LEADER ABIMAELE GUZMAN'S WIFE AUGUSTA LA TORRE, WHO DIED IN 1989, STILL HAD RELATIVES IN AYACUCHO. (A RECENTLY CAPTURED SENDERO LEADER HAS INFORMED POLICE THAT GUZMAN ACTUALLY HAD HIS WIFE KILLED.) A LOCAL JOURNALIST NOTED THAT LA TORRE'S PARENTS NOW LIVE IN SWEDEN. GUZMAN WAS ORIGINALLY FROM AREQUIPA AND DOES NOT HAVE ANY BLOOD RELATIVES IN AYACUCHO.

¶14. (C) WITH THE CASE OF FORMER SENDERO HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST GUADALUPE CCALLACUNTO, WHO DISAPPEARED IN AYACUCHO IN 1990, SHORTLY APPEARING BEFORE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, POLOFF ASKED SEVERAL AYACUCHO RESIDENTS IF THEY REMEMBERED HER CASE. A PUBLIC MINISTRY EMPLOYEE AND A UNIVERSITY STUDENT BOTH REMEMBERED HER AND SAID SHE WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE MILITARY.

COMMENT

¶15. (C) A KEY CONCERN OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS APPEARS TO BE LETTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD KNOW ABOUT THE IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION IN AYACUCHO, AND THUS IMPROVING TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION EFFORTS IN THE AREA. WITH LATENT SUPPORT FOR SENDERO IN AYACUCHO STILL NOT COMPLETELY ERADICATED, THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FOCUSING HEAVILY ON LOCAL NEEDS AND GRIEVANCES. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD ENHANCE FRUSTRATION WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN LIMA, WHICH WAS A KEY FACTOR IN SENDERO'S INITIAL GROWTH.

ADAMS

=====CABLE ENDS=====